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LETTER DATED 9 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Teheran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 25 July 1997 and 3 October 1997, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex, containing the details of Iranian violations, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

List of violations

1. 25 July 1997

Iranian military units shot and killed Iraqi citizen Ali Mahdi Haliji Alnufli, who was fishing in the eastern lakes of Iraq, in the province of Maysan.

2. 7 and 8 August 1997

The Iranian side fired on a group of Iraqi fishermen who were fishing in Lake Umm Alniaj in Iraqi territory, killing one of the fishermen (Ahmid Qazim Hassan).

3. 20 August 1997

Iranian military units killed an Iraqi citizen named Salim Farhan Darwish Al-kabi and kidnapped Hamid Jaafar Salih and Fadil Majbal Hatiim, who had been gathering wood in the Tayb zone inside Iraqi territory with their vehicle, a Land Rover pick-up truck.

4. 24 August 1997

While he was fishing in the eastern lakes inside Iraqi territory, four persons aboard an Iranian vessel opened fire on Iraqi citizen Kazim Farhan Matshar Alnufli, wounding him in the left thigh.

5. 28 August 1997

At 1830 hours five small Iranian fibreglass patrol vessels, equipped with 48-horsepower Yamaha motors and each carrying three civilians, emerged from the vicinity of Abadan heading towards the southern Shatt al-Arab. At 0350 hours on 29 August 1997, the vessels returned to their point of departure.

6. 31 August 1997

At 1830 hours five small red Iranian fibreglass patrol boats with 48-horsepower Yamaha motors, each carrying three unarmed passengers, emerged from the Abadan area at coordinates 40558 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) and deployed in the Shatt al-Arab between Abadan and the area opposite Fayidah at coordinates 515430. On 1 September 1997, at 0600 hours, the boats returned to their point of departure.

7. 7 September 1997

At 1300 hours one of the Iranian positions opposite the Wasiliya area at coordinates 415545 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) opened fire on an Iraqi fishing boat which was recovering the bodies of two persons who had drowned in the Shatt al-Arab.

8. 8 September 1997

At 1700 hours the Iranian side set up a customs post in the Kosroabad region at coordinates 517409 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) across from the Iraqi region of Fayidah. The post is composed of a large pontoon carrying a grey pick-up vehicle, and the Iranian side inspects the Iranian boats entering and leaving the port of Abadan. About 15 persons are stationed there, some in military uniform and others in civilian clothing.

9. 13 September 1997

At 0900 hours, the Iranian side kidnapped two Iraqi frontier policemen as they were gathering wood in the Kilal region in Iraqi territory. They were released on 1 October 1997.

10. 13 September 1997

At 1555 hours, two small Iranian patrol boats, each with three persons aboard in civilian clothing, came within 500 metres of the port of Al-Bakr. At 1558 hours, the two boats sailed away towards the Iranian coast.

11. 16 September 1997

The Iranian authorities kidnapped the Iraqi citizen Khalf Jbitar Najm Abdullah Al-Mandlawi near Mandali, on the border, while he was gathering wood.

12. 21 September 1997

At 1200 hours, two small Iranian fibreglass boats came within 150 metres of the port of Al-Bakr, where they sailed around the port for three minutes before sailing away towards the Iranian coast. The first boat carried four civilians and the second, two civilians.

13. 21 September 1997

The Iranian side kidnapped Qasim Abad Al-Hussein Hamoudi in the Amghar area at coordinates 8803. The Iranians began to question him. On 22 September 1997, at 1600 hours, they took him along the frontier road near the above-mentioned area.

14. 23 September 1997

(a) At 0800 hours, a unit of the Iranian military engineering corps was seen setting up four posts in the Shatt al-Arab across from Ras Al-Bicha at coordinates 677150 (1:100,000 map port of Al-Bakr). The sappers, who used a tugboat to pull a pontoon carrying a crane, were escorted by an Iranian white fibreglass boat, with three civilians aboard. The engineering unit left the same day.

(b) At the same time, an eight-member engineering unit, equipped with three cranes, a Land Rover vehicle and a pick-up vehicle, was seen crossing a

field near the site mentioned in paragraph (a), where they remained to continue their work.

15. 24 September 1997

At 1800 hours, three Iranian fibreglass patrol boats with 48-horsepower motors, two of them red and the third grey, each carrying three civilians, left Abadan and Kosroabad, at coordinates 51400 (1:100,000 map of Siba). On 25 September 1997, at 0600 hours, all the boats withdrew.

16. 29 September 1997

At 0705 hours, six Iranian F-4 aircraft attacked the special camp at Kut and dropped three bombs.

17. 17 September 1997

At 0715 hours, four Iranian F-4 aircraft attacked the special camp at Jalulá; our anti-aircraft defence weapons returned fire and forced them to turn back. The aircraft dropped four missiles, which had the following effects:

(a) Four Iraqi soldiers suffered moderate to serious wounds;

(b) Three Land Rover vehicles carrying radiological equipment were hit, sustaining moderate damage;

(c) An Iraqi ground radio broadcasting station was hit sustaining moderate damage;

(d) A power-generation unit of the Iraqi radio station was hit, sustaining moderate damage.

18. 29 September 1997

At 1000 hours, three helicopters were observed above Zin Al-Qaws, where they circled for five minutes before returning to Iranian territory.

19. 29 September 1997

At 1100 hours, three helicopters were observed above the Iranian guardposts opposite the Halali border post at coordinates 4573, flying northward along the international border.

20. 29 September 1997

At 1350 hours an unarmed camouflaged Iranian helicopter was spotted at coordinates 8409 heading south-eastward. At 1400 hours it returned towards the Iranian hinterland and disappeared at coordinates 9302. It flew at an altitude of 3,000 metres for 10 minutes at a distance of 3 kilometres within Iranian territory.

21. 29 September 1997

At 1030 hours a group of Iranian elements composed of about 15 men dressed in black shirts and white trousers approached the Ain al-Abad guard post at coordinates 2447 (map of Qazaniya). Our units reacted. At 1050 hours, the group returned towards the Iranian interior.

22. 3 October 1997

At 1030 hours an armed Iranian group composed of 5 to 8 people opened fire on two Iraqi border guards who were going to fetch water from a well located at coordinates 4013, wounding one of them in the leg.